Setting up OCTOPUS by Andhra Pradesh to counter terrorism

2992. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that Hyderabad is one of the important cities facing terrorist threat in the country;

(b) whether it has come to his notice that State of Andhra Pradesh set up OCTOPUS to counter terrorist offences;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the OCTOPUS has barely 10 per cent of the force that it originally planned and hence not able to effectively perform its functions;

(d) if so, whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received by his Ministry for help;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action contemplated on such request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) As per available inputs, some of the major cities and iconic installations are on the target of terrorists, including Hyderabad.

(b) and (c) As per available inputs, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has created an organization namely Organization for Counter Terrorist Operation (OCTOPUS), to combat the terrorist menace, with the strength of 1590 executive personnel. The OCTOPUS at present has a strength of 390 executive personnel. The State Government is reorganizing OCTOPUS as a commando unit on the lines of National Security Guard. The State Government have informed that personnel have to be selected and trained for commando operations and it is expected that the OCTOPUS will have full strength in about year's time.

(d) to (f) The Government of India extends assistance to the States under the Modernization of State Police Forces Scheme (MPF Scheme). Assistance is also provided by way of training of personnel etc. The Central Paramilitary Forces are also deployed at the request of States Government. As per available inputs, no specific request with reference to OCTOPUS has been received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Use of IAF in anti-naxal operations

2993. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved use of IAF in anti-naxal operations;

(b) if so, whether Government has evolved a doctrine for usage of IAF in anti-naxal and anti-insurgency operations; and